

Message Text

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TAGS: XR, PFOR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY PRESS CONFERENCE - QUESTIONS ON LATIN

AMERICAN ISSUES

AT FRIDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, SECRETARY WAS ASKED SEVERAL
QUESTIONS ABOUT LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES:

Q: SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAVE PROPOSED THE
PARTICIPATION OF THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE NEXT
ROUND OF INFORMAL MEETINGS OF HEMISPHERE FOREIGN MINISTERS
IN BUENOS AIRES. AND CUBANS HAVE APPARENTLY SAID THEY
WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH INFORMAL MEETINGS
IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. I'M ASKING WHETHER YOU SEE AN
EVOLUTION OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS THAT COULD ALLOW THE
AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE TO SEEK INFORMAL MEETINGS
SCHEDULED WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERS AND THE
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CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER?

A: IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE. BUT THE DECISION AT PRESENT -- IF WE HAD TO VOTE ON IT TODAY -- OUR VOTE WOULD BE NEGATIVE. WE LEFT IT THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, AS THE HOST GOVERNMENT, WOULD CONSULT WITH ALL OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO SEE WHAT THE CONSENSUS IS AS THIS CONFERENCE APPROACHES.

WE WILL ALSO CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS AS THE TIME FOR THIS CONFERENCE APPROACHES. BUT, AS OF NOW, OUR POSITION IS AS I HAVE DESCRIBED.

Q: MR. SECRETARY, HAVING GRANTED EXPORT LICENSES TO ARGENTINA TO SEND CARS TO CUBA, IS THE ECONOMIC DENIAL PROGRAM STILL VIABLE; AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE CANADIAN LOCOMOTIVE COMPANIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY STARTED SHIPPING AND ARE UNDER THE SAME OBLIGATION?

A: THE DECISION WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA WAS TO PERMIT AMERICAN COMPANIES THAT ARE CHARTERED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO COMPLY WITH THE LAWS OF THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED -- TO DEAL WITH AN ANOMALY OF OUR LEGISLATION WHICH MAKES AMERICAN COMPANIES THAT ARE INCORPORATED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO UNITED STATES LAW RATHER THAN TO THE LAW OF THE COUNTRY IN WHICH THEY ARE DOMICILED IN CASE THERE'S A CONFLICT. IT WAS NOT BASED ON CONSIDERATIONS OF CUBA POLICY.

THEREFORE, THE BEHAVIOR OF AMERICAN COMPANIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES WILL DEPEND ON THE POLICIES THE COUNTRIES PURSUE VIS-A-VIS CUBA. AND OUR OWN VIEW ON THAT HAS NOT CHANGED.

Q: BUT THE POLICY IS STILL VIABLE?

A: WE BELIEVE IT IS. KISSINGER

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